

CONCERNING SECURITY

INTRODUCTION

- A. Where can we find security in such a troubling world?
- B. In whom can we trust when people don't keep their promises?
- C. Psalm 91 and Proverbs 18 declare that security may be found. The Psalmist found it, so can you and so can I.

TRUE SECURITY

- A. The Psalmist declares that true security may be found in God alone (1-2), *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*
 - 1. Take refuge in God and you will find safety.
 - 2. God's security is for every situation.
 - a. Shelter and shadow - hides one from danger
 - b. Refuge and fortress - protections from attack
 - 3. God's security is based on His nature.
 - a. God is transcendent
 - 1) He is Most High - God is greater than all creation
 - 2) He is almighty - God is greater in power
 - 3) He is Lord - the uncreated One Who is
 - b. God is immanent
 - 1) He is my God - a God I can know and trust
 - 2) He is my Savior - He died that I might live.
 - 4. God's security is for those who commit themselves to His loving care.
 - a. I must choose to trust God instead of myself.
 - b. I am sure many of you already are resting in Him.
 - c. Let's be reminded of God's protection.
- B. The Psalmist illustrates how God protects those who trust in Him (3-13)
 - 1. God's protection is for every situation (3-4), *For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*
 - a. He protects us from those who would try to harm us.
 - b. He protects us from deadly diseases.
 - c. His protection is like being a baby chick tenderly nestled in the wings of his mother.
 - d. His protection is more dependable than a shield or large wall.
 - 2. God's protection is all the time (5-6), *You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.*
 - a. Night - 6pm to midnight.
 - b. Day - 6am to noon.
 - c. Darkness - midnight to 6am
 - d. Noonday - noon to 6pm
 - 3. God's protection includes deliverance from judgment (7-8), *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.*
 - a. Judgment will come for those who reject God's deliverance through Jesus.
 - b. We are kept from judgment based on the favor we have through Christ.
 - c. Romans 8:1, *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

4. God's protection is for those who rest in Him (9-10), *Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge— no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.*
 - a. At times, we are delivered from dangers, other times, we are delivered through dangers.
 - b. Romans 8:28, *God works all things together for good for those who love Him.*
 - c. Martin Luther, *Send sickness, poverty, losses, crosses, persecution, what You will. You have forgiven me, and my soul is glad.* Martin Luther
 5. God's protection is supernatural (11-13), *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.*
 - a. Angels guard and protect those who trust in God.
 - b. God delivers those who trust in Him from spiritual battles.
 - c. Despite the circumstances, we are secure in Him.
- C. God declares His faithfulness to those who trust in Him (14-16), *Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.*
1. God delivers those who trust in Him.
 2. God responds to those who call on Him, Psalm 34:4, *I sought the Lord, He heard me and delivered me from all my fears.*
 3. God blesses those who trust in Him with long life here and eternal life in heaven.

CONCLUSION

- A. What does a person look like who trusts in God?
 1. He loves God.
 2. He seeks to know God better.
 3. He calls on God for help.
 4. He looks forward to eternal life with the God he trusts.
- B. What does a person look like who doesn't trust in God?
 1. He is not necessarily insecure or fearful.
 2. He is prideful - a person who doesn't trust in God trusts in himself.
- C. How can I be sure I am a person trusting God?
 1. Trusting God demands that I place my faith in Jesus Christ alone. He is the way the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Him.
 2. Believe Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead to make payment for your sins and to give you eternal life.
 3. Then, the journey begins, trusting a faithful God moment by moment.

PROVERBS 18:10-12

Proverbs 18:10-12, *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe. The wealth of the rich is their strong city; in their imagination it is like a high wall. Before destruction one's heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor.*

- A. An examination of the text
 1. Guidelines for studying Proverbs
 - a. There is a single controlling topic or theme of each Proverb.
 - 1) Contrast of the righteous and the wicked.
 - 2) The specific contrast in verses 10 - 12 concerns security.

- b. Word pictures are used instead of events
 - 1) *Name of the Lord*
 - a) In Hebrew, name denotes character.
 - b) "LORD," is Yahweh, the self-existent One
 - 2) *Strong tower*
 - a) It is a defensive structure
 - 1] In cities.
 - 2] In the countryside for shepherds.
 - 3] Even the wooden podium from which Ezra read the book of the Law of Moses.
 - b) Common element - the advantage of height.
 - 3) *Righteous* - he who trusts the LORD
 - 4) *Rich man* - he who trusts in wealth
 - 5) *Strong city*
 - a) Fortified town
 - b) Fortress

2. Interpretation

- a. A Contrast in security (10-11)
 - 1) Yahweh is security for the righteous (10), ***The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.***
 - a) He is a safe haven.
 - b) The righteous run to Him.
 - c) Psalm 18:2, *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*
 - 2) Wealth is security for the rich (11), ***The wealth of the rich is their strong city; in their imagination it is like a high wall.***
 - a) The rich trust in their wealth.
 - b) Such security is only imagined.
 - c) *Seventy percent of Americans think their financial status is "at least somewhat" indicative of "God's regard" for them.* Harper's, October 1995.
 - d) Read verse 11 from NIV, *they imagine it an unscalable wall.*
- b. The results (12), ***Before destruction one's heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor.***
 - 1) Destruction for the proud (12a)
 - a) The wealthy can be proud.
 - b) Pride is a breach in their wall of security.
 - 2) Honor for the humble (12b)
 - a) Humility demands fear of God instead of arrogance.
 - b) Such an attitude is rewarded by God with honor.

B. Application

- 1. How can I make God my security?
 - a. Relationship: John 17:3, *And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*
 - b. Personal choice: Hosea 6:3, *So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.*
 - c. Experience: Psalm 105:3-4, *Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.*

2. What can I learn from the wealthy?
 - a. The wealthy are satiated with what they have - they want experiences.
 - b. The righteous in Christ
 - 1) Don't be satisfied with the things of the faith.
 - a) Church attendance.
 - b) Ministry responsibilities.
 - 2) Seek an ever deepening personal relationship with God.
 - a) Our God is THE once-in-a-lifetime event.
 - b) Security is in knowing God personally not just doing things for God.